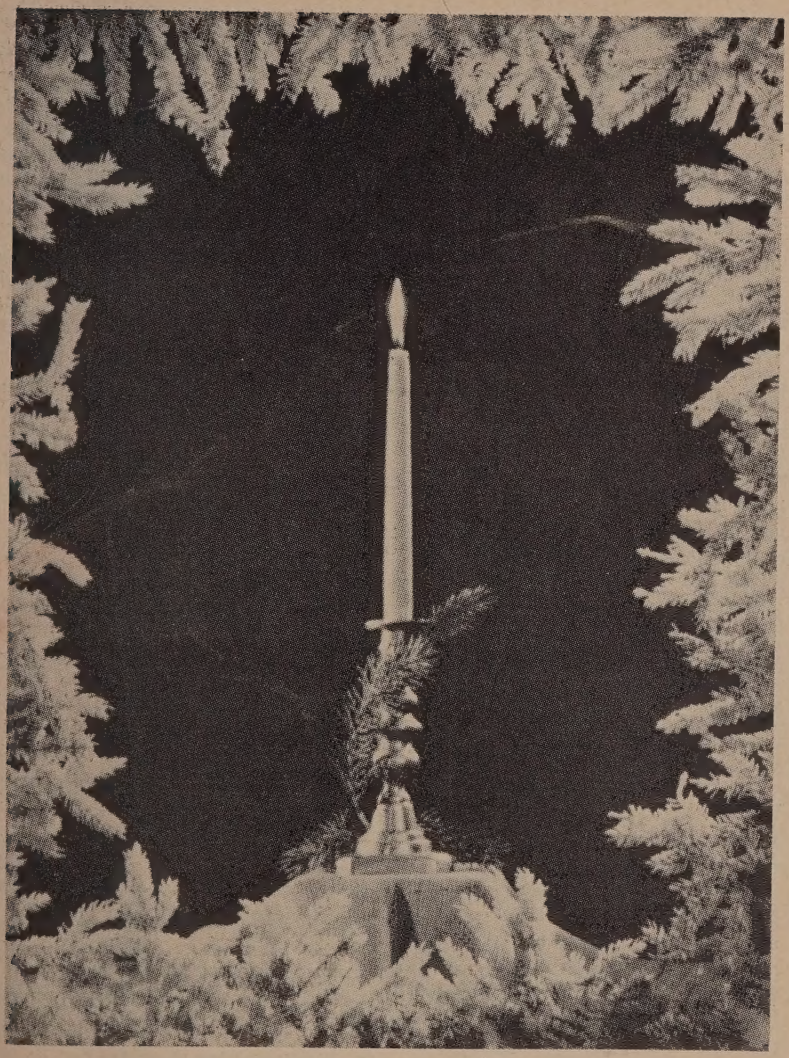

ADVENT

CONGREGATIONAL KANSAS

NOVEMBER • 1955

KOLBROOK LIBRARY
PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION

W. Deiter Flemming on Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is more closely linked to our Congregational Heritage than any other festival. It is a climatic embodiment of the Pilgrim Spirit and, historically, of the Pilgrim Enterprise.

We understand Thanksgiving best, I believe, in its historical setting. Visualize a church meeting and the atmosphere of a Christian assembly. It was then and there, while men and women pleaded for light and for faith to walk in it, that the Mayflower expedition was conceived and carried out. But most important of all is a feature of the enterprise on which, perhaps, we do not often dwell. No minister went with them; that is, no ordained preacher and pastor. Apart from the fragrant memory of their former leader's ministry, the Pilgrims were dependent on what we today call lay leadership. The first Thanksgiving proclamation, along with all spiritual utterances, was made by laymen of the Pilgrim band. It ought to be forever symbolical of the United States that the religious spirit was united to the spirit of practical citizenship in those who, unordained of man, assumed spiritual leadership within the Plymouth Plantation. Let us emulate their example by cultivating and calling on the spiritual wealth of men and women in our churches who have not devoted themselves to the formal ministry, but whose thought and experience can enrich our corporate life.

Their faith prompted our spiritual sires to set apart a day of Thanksgiving; the Pilgrim Church created the Pilgrim State; they drew up the first instrument conferring equal civil and religious rights on every member of the commonwealth; they sought to do the will of God on earth, in every area of life. All this is a matter of history and, I feel should be incorporated among our reasons for Thanksgiving, when we express our gratitude for the fruits of the good earth.

And yet, imperishable as that history is, it is of little worth for the world of tomorrow in comparison with the necessity that we should highly resolve to bring to the stupendous task of creating yet another "New World" a double portion of the spirit of our sires the same faith, fortitude and spirit of adventure, a like endurance in the face of danger, suffering and death, and an equal temper of heroic hearts.

* * *

SHARE OUR SURPLUS
With The Hungry Overseas
GIVE THANKS BY GIVING

No December Issue

This is the last issue of Congregational Kansas until January. We of the Conference Staff wish for you all Happy and Meaningful Holidays.

CONGREGATIONAL KANSAS
Vol. 17 No. 8

Entered as second class matter at Topeka, Kansas, April 12, 1951. Accepted for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917 authorized January 11, 1923. Issued monthly except July, August and December at Topeka, Kansas by the Kansas Congregational and Christian Conference.

Editorial and Executive Offices

923 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas
Editors
Supt. and Mrs. L. M. Rymph

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THE LEGEND OF THE ADVENT BOUGHS

A lovely Christmas custom comes to us from medieval times. To simple peasant folks, it seemed that the birthday of the Christ should be prepared for, and that His coming should be heralded before His actual natal day.

On the first Sunday in Advent, each family would gather around its hearth. There would be placed, as a symbol of life everlasting, the everfresh, ever-beautiful boughs of fir, the spruce, the balsam, or the pine. Far to the right would be placed a tall gleaming taper, the Christmas Gospel Candle. Across the mantel the Advent candles stood: the candles of Faith, of Hope, of Love and the Unnamed Candle. Grouped around the Adventboughs, the family stood. From its honored place the family Bible was taken, and from one of the Christmas stories the head of the family read the ever-new account. At its close he crossed to the tall taper, the Christmas Gospel Candle. As the family sang the strains of some loved carol, hetouched its tip with flame. A sense of expectation filled every heart. The singing ceased. A short silence followed. Then all joined in the Advent prayer. So ended the first part of the Advent Ceremony.

They all knew, however, that this ceremony was only a beginning. The next Sunday would bring another Christmas story, another carol, another moment of prayer, and then some other member of the family—perhaps the smallest child, perhaps the grandmother—would kindle the first Advent Candle from the Christmas Gospel Light. So it would go, each Sunday in Advent, until only one candle remained. This, the Unnamed Candle, would be lighted on Christmas Eve. At its lighting, each would then name it by himself, calling it by whatever name the deepest desire of his heart might be.

Now in this year, the Advent boughs are on our altar. The candles are about to be lighted.

Let us pray God to touch our eyes with beauty, our minds with vision, our hearts with love as we "prepare Him room'.'

"THY LIGHT IS COME"

Many visitors to the celebrated Carlsbad Caverns will recall a rather striking incident from the tour of the various galleries. At a certain point the guide requested the members of the party to be seated; whereupon he turned off all lights, leaving every one in complete

The United Church of Christ

Theodore N. Goodale

Present plans for union of the Congregational Christian churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Church call for consumation in 1957, and therefore, your state committee on the Proposed Union urges the churches of our fellowship to become acquainted with the E and R people. We suggest that ministers exchange pulpits, and speak at church night suppers. It would be a fine thing if joint meetings of deacons and trustees could be arranged. Union summer services planned in the youth groups would be a splendid demonstration of unity. Since we are the larger denomination, it would be appropriate for the churches of our Conference to take the initiative in arranging joint meetings.

With the explicit understanding of the Basis of Union in our thinking, and with the assurance that the churches of our faith and order will continue to call their own ministers, own their own church property, retain their local church name, run their own financial operations, and continue to serve the community and the world according to their own statement of faith and constitution and by-laws, let us put aside our fears and go forward, with faith into a Union which, we fondly trust, will become an expanding instrument of His grace, and a base of operations through which He will march toward the conquest of the ages.

Kansas has 34 Evangelical and Reformed Churches:

Abilene — Rev. G. A. Teske; Alida; Alma—Rev. Paul Kasper; Baldwin—Rev. Henry G. Rieder; Belvue—Rev. Vernon A. Kurz; Bern—Rev. A. L. Brueggemann; Bluff City; Cheney—Rev. Walter Vonderohe; Ellinwood—Rev. R. F. Richter, Sr.; Elmo—Rev. Melvin Lichte; Eudora—Rev. Arthur E. Reiss; Fairview—Rev. J. P. Kochner; Great Bend—Rev. Wm. Bessmer; Hardtner—Rev. Carl Ringer; Herndon; Hiawatha—Rev. A. O. Englemann; Hoisington; Holyrood—Rev. Elmer Broetzmann; Hudson—Rev. Victor Englemann; Hudson—Rev. E. H. Lauer; Inman—Rev. Walter Meyer, Junction City—Rev. George Thilking; Kansas City—Rev. H. W. Rath; Leavenworth—Rev. Robert Baker; Marysville—Rev. Howard Beer; Newton—Rev. Marvin Kirchoff; Newton; Nickerson—Rev. Donald Stuart; Paola; Vesper; Wathena—Rev. D. C. Jensen; Wathena—Rev. Wm. Jassman; Wichita—Rev. D. C. Jenson; Wichita—Rev. Martin Ernest; Wichita—Rev. Robert O. Lasser.

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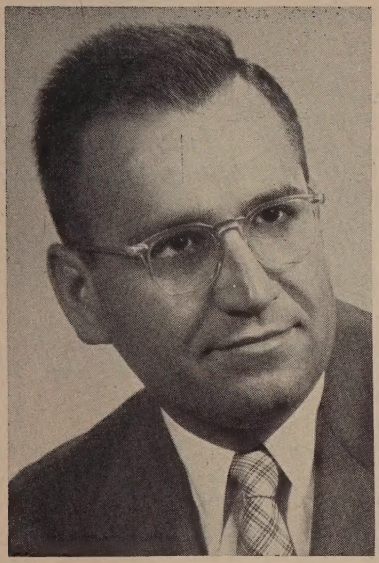
darkness for several seconds. At that moment many visitors have no doubt recalled the words of the Prophet Isaiah, "For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people."

But when the light is flicked on again, on the far side of the spacious gallery, flooding the "Rock of Ages" with light, the visitor has just as promptly recalled the jubilant note conveyed by the same prophet when he breaks forth, "Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."

Thoughts such as these always suggest themselves at the beginning of the Advent season. For it is here that the Christian Church in a very special sense is reminded of the coming of Him who was indeed and still is the "Light of the World." Jesus Christ did come, bringing heavenly light into a sin-darkened world. He continues to come, sending forth the light which alone can guide men along the pathway of repentance and faith to life eternal.



Charles Burns

A brand new departure in youth programs will get underway at Plymouth Church in Wichita early next year, with the arrival of the Rev. Charles L. Burns, Jr., from Westchester, Illinois, to act in the joint capacity of associate minister and director of youth activities.

In addition to these duties, Mr. Burns will undertake the direction of a research foundation—already named "Youth, Inc." and aimed at discovering methods and tools to effect a really daring and adventuresome new departure in the field of youth activities. This foundation already has attracted the attention of the University of Chicago and several of the country's largest churches which have pioneered in youth research.

In keeping with the bright promise of this program, is the bright and promising young man who has been chosen to lead it. Thet Rev. Mr. Burns was born 32 years ago in McKeesport, Pa., and first came to Wichita in 1947 when he attended the University of Wichita on a football scholarship. It was during that year on the W. U. campus that he received the counseling which determined him to follow his inclination toward the ministry, and he enrolled the following year at the University of Chicago and Chicago Theological Seminary.

During his seminary days, Mr. Burns was in charge of the youth activities in one of the largest churches associated with the Congregational-Christian denomination in Illinois—the Bryn Mawr Community Church of Chicago. Immediately following his graduation from seminary, he became associate minister of the Glenview Community Church in Glenview, Ill., and his tremendous success with the youth program at that church was directly responsible for his being chosen as minister to the high-potential church at Westchester, Ill.

At Westchester, Mr. Burns repeated his earlier successes—this time not only in the youth field, but also by building his newly-organized church in less than two years into a membership of more than 600 persons. The first of the church buildings was completed in October of this year. The success of the Westchester youth program has been one of the most significant in the country.

Mr. Burns and his wife, Ruth, a former airline stewardess, were married at Plymouth Church in Wichita by Dr. John Henry Hornung, and they have two boys, 5 and 3 years of age.

"CARAVANS ARE COMING"

From the middle of October, thru most of November, Conference Caravans are invading Kansas Congregational churches. To date 44 leaders, arranged in teams of three people are scheduled in 44 churches and dates are still being scheduled. We feel sure that all participating members would agree that Caravan experiences abound with fun, food and fellowship, but they are more than that. One team member writes: "It gives one a feeling for the whole church and the intercommunion of churches that is exciting." One church visited has reported that their church officers were awakened to responsibilities they had never before realized and were ready to do something about them.

Team Members

Charles Aeschleman, Sabetha; Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Bartter, McPherson; Rev. O. E. Bonny, KC Rosedale; Mrs. Sam Cheeseman, Wichita Pilgrim; Rev. Paul Davis, Garden City; Mrs. Dale Dugan, Rev. and Mrs. Elmer Erickson, Topeka Seabrook; Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ewing, Russell; Mr. and Mrs. Phil Felton, Great Bend; Dr. Merton French, Topeka Central; Guy T. Gebhardt, Wichita Fairmount; Mrs. John W. Gibson, Wichita Plymouth; Rev. T. N. Goodale, KC 1st Pilgrim; Gerry Gregg, Topeka; Rev. and Mrs. Robert Gurtler, Ellis; Dan Hopkins, Garden City; Rev. Julian Johnson, Partridge; Gordon Jones, Wichita Fairmount; Rev. Ray Jones, Topeka First; Rev. Wm. F. Keeney, Manhattan; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lancaster, Topeka Seaman; Rev. Sam Lee, Osborne; Mrs. Karl Leidig, Lenora; Rev. O. L. Nichols, Downs; Rev. and Mrs. S. Duane Ogden, Sabetha; Rev. Hans Poppe, Russell; Rev. Louis Poppe, Whitewater; Orval Reeves, KC Welborn; Mrs. Don Robertson, Topeka Seaman; Rev. Merton Rymph, Anthony; Alfred Schroeder, Newton; Dr. Gladys Turner, Osborne; Kenneth Stewart, Wichita Plymouth; Rev. S. J. Williams, Emporia; Rev. Harald Wisegarver, Smith Center; Levi Zimmerman, Whitewater; Rev. Richard A. Zoppel, Wichita Pilgrim.

We are deeply grateful for the time and effort given by these devoted workers.

Churches Being Visited

Oct. 23: Downs, Sedgwick, Dover
Oct. 24: Osborne United
Oct. 25: Topeka Seaman
Oct. 26: Whitewater and Independence
Oct. 27: Hiawatha and Topeka Seabrook
Oct. 30: Maize and Wakefield
Nov. 2: Wichita Planeview, Topeka 1st, K. C. First Pilgrim
Nov. 6: Kinsley, Garden City, Gaylord, Onaga, Russell and Carbondale
Nov. 7: Kiowa
Nov. 8: Ford
Nov. 9: Partridge, Towanda, Haven, Milford, Seneca and K. C. Ruby
Nov: 10: K. C. Welborn, Smith Center
Nov. 13: Muscotah, Newton, Little River, Leavenworth
Nov. 14: Gorham
Nov. 15: Mound City
Nov. 16: Lenora, Eureka, Plevna
Nov. 20: Almena
Nov. 27: K. C. Rosedale
Nov. 13: Wichita Fairmount

The Rev. Elmer E. Erickson, Chairman of the Caravan Committee says they will gladly schedule teams after the first of the year for churches still wanting to share in the program.

Henry Smith Leiper
Convocation Guest

Minister's Convocation February 7, 8, and 9

Dates for the 29th Annual Washburn Ministers' Convocation are set early to get the sessions in ahead of Lent which begins the next Wednesday, February 15. The Rev. S. J. Williams and his committee are lining up a very worth-while program.

The speaker for the Chapel presentations is Dr. Henry Smith Leiper of New York City, Minister and Executive Secretary of the Missions Council. Dr. Leiper needs no introduction to Kansas Congregationalists as he gave leadership to our conference Centennial sessions in Lawrence, and has been a favorite in state and national circles for many years. He is a world traveler who for the past quarter of a century has practically "commuted" between the U. S. and Europe; having made his 75th crossing recently.

Giving leadership at the minister's sessions will be the Rev. Thomas Chalmers Dick, Jr., minister of the First Plymouth Congregational Church of Lincoln, Nebraska. Before accepting his present post, Mr. Dick was minister of the First Congregational Church of Colorado Springs for nine years. He was a delegate to the 7th International Congregational Council at St. Andrews, Scotland in 1953 following which he was a member of the Social Action Study tour.

In-state leaders and further details will appear in the January issue. This annual gathering of Kansas ministers features fellowship and every new minister should make it a "must" on his February calendar. As usual, at least 25 of the out-of-town men will be housed and given breakfast at the MacVicar State Parsonage. Mark the dates—February 7, 8 and 9.

Around The Associations

Wonderful rains over most of the state just preceding the Fall Association meetings put everyone in a mood of gratitude. Western meeting at Smith Center had a record attendance with 200 at the Sunday evening dinner. The Rev. Armstrong Hunter of Boston, Mrs .Karl Leidig of Lenora and Mrs. Gordon Lancaster of Topeka gave outstanding leadership.

Southern will meet next fall at Eureka, with Dr. R. Banks Blocher as host pastor. Judge Alfred Schroeder of Newton is Moderator. Rev. Julian Johnson, Assistant Moderator and the Rev. Louis Poppe, Registrar.

Eastern elected the Rev. T. N. Goodale, Moderator and Mrs. Morris Dowell, Assistant with the Rev. Elmer Erickson continued as Registrar. They will meet next fall with the Rev. and Mrs. G. Waldo Crippen and their people at Seneca.

Western will meet at Kinsley with the Rev. and Mrs. Malcolm White as hosts. Ralph Ewing of Russell is Moderator and the Rev. O. L. Nichols of Downs as Assistant Moderator, with Mr. White continued as Registrar.

Kansas Women's Fellowship

Mrs. Gordon Lancaster, President

In Memory

As evidence of the love and respect of those who knew them, the following names have been added to the Women's Department Memorial Fund Roll of Honor.

Mrs. John Thomi
Mrs. Elsie West
Mrs. Early Day
Mrs. W. A. Crary
By McPherson Women's Fellowship

Mrs. C. P. Higley
By Muscotah Missionary Society

Mrs. Louis Banker
By Eureka Women's Guild

"HEARTWARMERS"

So many things have warmed my heart since the last column, that space will not permit much more than a word or two for each. However, the following, and much more, have warmed my heart. What warms yours?

To attend each Association meeting and see many of you again and many for the first time.

To be welcomed so graciously by the women of the Great Bend Fellowship, to visit and have lunch in the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wedell—a home that reflects the quiet beauty of their lives— and to be transported from Great Bend to Russell by Mrs. Jim McWilliams so I could get home that same day.

To be invited by three women in the Downs Fellowship to stay overnight with them, after visiting with them about fellowship concerns, in the home of their new pastor and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Nichols.

To attend Church School and Morning Worship with our folks at Olive Hill.

To see the lovely church at Towanda, visit with the fellowship members and with Mr. and Mrs. John Jones.

To call on our very close neighbors at Carbondale and talk to them for a while about Social Action.

To go, with my husband, to Midwest Regional Meeting, be inspired by Dr. Alford Carleton, Dr. Walter Horton, Elsie Farris. To have breakfast with Ione Catton so that we could make plans for our first Kansas Retreat for Congregational Christian women.

To be a spectator at a Caravan meeting at our church and then to be a participant in Caravans at Independence, Seabrook, and Wakefield.

Vera Lancaster

Are You Reading

Someone asked the other day where she could get the addresses of publishers and the prices of books. Any large book store or library has the "Cumulative Index" that comes out every six months. They also collect lists of newer books. If you are far from a library, mail a card to me and I'll try to get the information to you.

Any of the 129 books listed in "Adventure in Reading" which is compiled by both the National Women's and National Laymen's Fellowship, can be purchased from the Pilgrim Press, 19 So. LaSalle St., Chicago 3, Ill.

Both home and World Mission study books can be purchased there or borrowed from my address.

I wish each of you might have the "The Adventure in Reading" list. There is a copy in the Literature Folder of the State Packet. Order them from the Pilgrim Press at 3c each or $2.50 for 100 copies.

There is no substitute for good reading. It opens windows of understanding stimulates thinking and takes us out of our small circles. We should read both factual material and good fiction, but always read critically. By so doing we reevaluate our thinking as we go along. Whether you're on a program or just with one or two others, do discuss what you've read. One feels less "merely stuffed."

Some groups last year found it stimulating to keep a record of books read. Just numbers reported mean little, but if you can report on why you think the others would like a certain book, or give them the name of another good book and tell them why they might like to read it, the time would be well spent.

Books on Revolutionary World Theme

"This Revolutionary Faith" analyses the state of the world and suggests a new approach for Christians; "They Reach for Life" stories of individuals; "Hope Rises from the Land", popularly written with pictures; "Christianity and the Asian Revolution" written by an Asian Christian; "Bridges of God" suggests a changed approach in missions; "Patterns of Things to Come" looking ahead by the 5th Assembly of Division of Foreign Missions. Young People's books: "Missions Unlimited", pictures and captions on hope and power of Christianity. A group of small books; "Hunger and Hope"; "When we Pray"; "Revolution and Redemption"; "Shock and Renewal" and "It's Worth Your Life."

Indian American Books

"Within Two Worlds" tells of difficulties faced today and how Christians can help; "The Gift is Rich" cites Indian's contributions in medicine, arts, music, etc. "Sagebrush Surgeon" a biography of Dr. Clarence Salsbury among the Navajos. Young people's books: "Doors Toward the Sunrise" tells how young Indians are solving their problems; "This is Indian America" pictures and stories to accompany "Doors Toward the Sunrise." Another book is "Dauntless Women."

Plays

"Fear Not" Christians and Communists in India; "Jungle Prize" communists sons turn to Christianity; "Caught Between" a Navajo boy; "Christmas Party" in a city apartment house; "Cry the Beloved Country" is a three-act play for mature groups, good for reading.

"The Answers" is a beautiful choral reading giving the reply of Christians to today's revolution.

Clara Herrick (Mrs. E. H.)
710 Lee St., Manhattan
Literature Secretary

Scholarship "Thank You" Letters

Dear Mrs. Lancaster:

Dr. Rymph has just forwarded to me the $300.00 scholarship from the Paul Bockoven Memorial Fund which you of the Kansas Women's Fellowship granted to me. I want you to know how deeply my wife and I apreciate this gift which certainly lessens the problem of financing my studies and supporting the family.

I hope you will express my gratitude to the women of the conference as the opportunities present themselves. Fairy and I recall with a great deal of pleasure the many friends we have among you. We are looking forward to re-

turning to the midwest upon completion of our work here. Perhaps we will see some of you at General Council in Omaha next summer.

Thank you so much for your support and interest in my preparation for the ministry. There is a bit of scripture which admirably expresses my feelings at this point: "Seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, lay aside every weight." (Heb. 12:1)

Yours in Christ,
Dan Tyson

Dear Mrs. Lancaster:

I want to thank you and the women of Kansas Conference very sincerely for the scholarship money granted to me. I appreciate your deep concern for myself and my family while we are in California attending the seminary.

You have lightened my financial load considerably and I find it very difficult to express myself in this letter of thanks.

While living in a strange place, we find it very encouraging and comforting to know those in our home state are with us in spirit.

Thank you so very much.

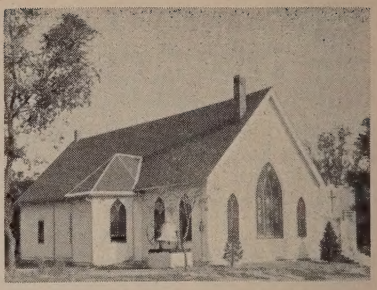
Sincerely yours,
Max Thomas.

Puerto Rican Tours

Dates: January 10-21, 1956
Cost: $225.00 per person from N. Y. City and return.

Itinerary Includes: Ryder Hospital, Yuquiyn Rural Life Community, Churches and Chapels, Conferences with leaders in government, industry, education and labor; Luquillo Beach; El Morro Castle.

For further information write:
Dr. Philip Widenhouse,
287 Fourth Avenue,
New York City, N. Y.



A Face-Lifting at Lincoln

The two ton bell of the Lincoln Church was silent for several years because it was extremely dangerous to ring it. Even its weight could not be borne without hazard. That is why the bell is now mounted on a foundation beside the church. The entrance was enlarged to provide a front stairway to the basement and an iron railing as well as new front steps were constructed.

The basement has been completely remodeled. This includes the installation of rest rooms, kitchen built-ins, replastered walls and ceilings, new tables and new folding chairs.

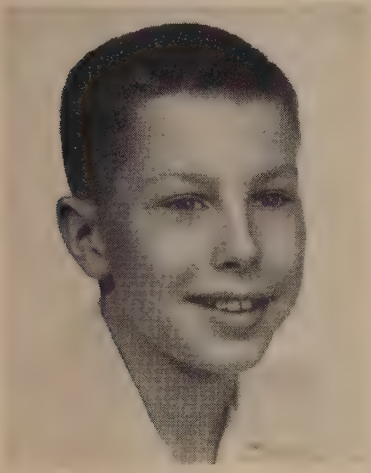
The chancel has been improved and the sanctuary redecorated. The congregation now sings from new hymnals.

The foundation has been repaired, new roofing, gutters, downspouts and a cementway around the base of the church to keep water from the foundation have been installed.

In addition to the many physical improvements, there is an upsurge of new spirit in the church school, youth program, and worshipping congregation. The people have demonstrated loyalty and vision under the leadership of the Rev. Noah Unruh during the past year.

Kansas Pilgrim Fellowship

George Epps, President **Marilyn Bell, Secretary**



Greg Turner
State Junior Hi Chairman

Letter From Dave McMullen

Union Seminary
600 W. 122nd St.
New York City

Kansas Pilgrim Fellowship:
George Epps, President:

Dear George:

This week I received a check for $250.00 from the Conference Office which the Kansas P. F. officers voted for my help. The financial assistance is greatly needed, especially with my family swimming feverishly to keep just their heads above water and with my summer earnings less than I had hoped. But I believe of equal importance with the dollar and cents value of the gift is your expression of concern and confidence in my future. It's an encouraging indication that the spirit of Wa-Shun-Ga, which I'm certain flows from the Spirit of Christ, is still very much alive.

Sincerely yours,
Dave.

Camp Projects Chosen

Share our surplus—for overseas; Indian Work in South Dakota—home missions. These two projects were decided upon by your officers at their Planning Conference held in Topeka early in September.

Area P. F. Rally

Kiowa Pilgrims were hosts to young people from Northwest Oklahoma for a Rally on October 30. Pilgrims from Carrier, Waynoka, Medford, Drummond and Goltry were invited; also the P. F. at Anthony, Kansas.

Youth Week - 1956
January 29 - February 5

The theme for this year is "Our Citizenship Under Christ." A 12-minute play entitled "Christians First", and other helps are available at the National Council of Churches, 79 Adams St., Chicago. Make plans early —Observe Youth Week.

Work Day For Christ

Money earned and stories about the day are being received with each day's mail. A full report will be given in January.

Christian Action Pledges

Has your pledge card been mailed to Kansas Pilgrim Fellowship, 923 Kansas Ave., Topeka?

Gleaned From Midwest Regional

I had the privilege of attending the Midwest meeting held this year, October 18-20 at First Church in Madison, Wisconsin. So far as inspiration is concerned, the meeting faced stiff competition from the October countryside but the theme, "Stewards of His Treasure," proved to be an interesting and fruitful one. For three days, some 900 persons were stimulated and aroused by the presentations and discussions.

If anything, the presentations were deeply embarrassing from a stewardship point of view. For example, we Americans spend twice as much for comic books and three times as much for dog food as we do to support Christian missions. But stewardship is not a matter of outward signs only—it involves basic attitudes and motivation.

From Topeka Central Tidings—
By Robert W. Tully,
Associate Minister

Others from Kansas attending the Midwest meeting were Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Bartter, Rev. Hans Poppe, Rev. and Mrs. Orville Hepler, Rev. J. C. Bloebaum, Rev. Richard R. Zoppel, Supt. L. M. Rymph, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lancaster.

Beautification at Towanda

The Superintendent joined the Rev. and Mrs. John Jones and the Towanda congregation, October 30, on the happy occasion of rededication on completion of an extensive improvement program. For more than a year every organization in the church has cooperated in activities to help make the church building an attractive house of worship. Almost $3,500 has been spent, almost $1500 of this amount raised by the women. There is no way of computing the hundreds of hours of volunteer labor contributed by devoted men and women.

While rejoicing in the accomplishments of the past, the church is looking forward to greater achievements with plans designed to deepen and enrich the spiritual life of the parish.

Gaylord Looks Ahead

The Rev. Roy Curless reports fine cooperation by the people of his parish in a program of progress. A Hammond organ installed on trial in May was dedicated, debt free, at an impressive service on October 2. The Every Member Canvass held on September 18 resulted in a fully pledged budget. New organizations in the church include an active Laymen's Fellowship, and a Junior and Senior Pilgrim Fellowship. Plans are now in the making for remodeling and redecorating the sanctuary. Mr. Curless states that the secret of it all is that "the people had a mind to work."

Mound City

"The Messenger," a monthly church paper edited by the Rev. Charles Baar, Minister, made its first appearance in October. The church carried out a Visitation Evangelism program the week of October 23 with a training session Sunday afternoon using the chart "Two By Two." A supper for the teams preceded the visitation each evening.

Whitewater 25th Anniversary

The Rev. Frank Worthington, former minister will be the guest speaker for the all day Anniversary Celebration to be held on November 27. The Rev. Louis Poppe is minister.

Kansas Laymen's Fellowship

Carl Althaus
President

Bill Cribbs
Vice President

Ralph Ewing
Secretary-Treasurer

Omissions

In the October issue story about the McPherson Laymen's meeting, several lines were skipped omitting these churches whose laymen were present: Downs—3; Maize—1; Neola—1; Newton—8; Osborne—1; Partridge—4; Prairie Village—3; Russell—5; Sabetha—4; Seneca—3.

Association Elections

Southern elected Bob Rymph of Wichita Pilgrim as Chairman and J. L. Napier of Newton as Vice Chairman.

Eastern Chairman is Don Maxwell of Topeka Central with Charles Armstrong of Muscotah, Vice Chairman

Western elected Lee Schmell of Osborne as Chairman.

Laymen's Sunday

Observation of this special day in mid October began in 1941. It is being observed by more churches each year. It gives opportunity in churches across the land for men of varied callings, out of widely differing background, to express their concerns.

At **Newton,** J. L. Napier presided at the morning service on October 16. A men's Chorus was directed by John D. Davidson. Under the caption—"As a Layman Sees It" Rodney Stone spoke on "Things Past"; Alfred Schroeder, J. L. Davidson and Tony Karabka spoke on "Things Present" and John Cottingham on "Things To Come."

United Church at Osborne began the day with 28 men of the church attending a breakfast as guests of their minister, the Rev. Samuel Lee. Frank Chalk presided at the morning service. A chorus of 20 men made up the choir and sang a special number. Responsive reading, prayer and scripture were given by Darrel Seidell, Homer Calvin and Erle Clark. Messages on "Doers of the Word" were given by Joe Cunningham, Laurence Woolley and Omar Gregory.

Lenora observed the day with a Men's Choir and quartet and lay participation in the worship service.

At **Tonganoxie,** under the leadership of the Rev. Robert Jahns, talks were given by Orval Reeves and Fred Jarvis, laymen from Kansas City Welborn.

Lenora Organizes

Twenty six men turned out for a Pancake Supper followed by a meeting to organize a Laymen's program. Carl Georgeson was elected President, Don Heikes, Vice President and Albert Clydesdale, Secretary-Treasurer.

Men of Central

A fine group of men met on October 20 with Dr. Edward Greenwood bringing the message of the evening. Decision was made to organize a Men's Fellowship at Central and a nominating committee was appointed to bring a report at the next meeting, Nov. 17.

Churchmen's Rally

On October 9, the Topeka Council of Churches sponsored a rally at *the* Municipal auditorium. More than a thousand men listened to a challenging message by Harold Stassen.

"The Heart of the Matter"

Orville M. Hepler

The old proverb, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he" could well be applied to the body of Christ, the Church. Since the health of the Conference depends largely on the conditior of each local church, let us look at the "heart" of our congregation in our home town.

Feeling the Pulse

Just as a physician feels the pulse to get the number of beats our heart makes each minute, so we must look at the statistics of attendance at church functions such as worship, church school, youth and adult groups, etc. Is our church pulse normal or are we skipping some beats? If we consider Christmas and Easter as normal, where does it leave the health of the Body of Christ in our community?

The Stethescope

After he has felt the pulse, the doctor puts the listening ends of the stethescope in his ears and holds the sounding end over the patient's chest.

Pulse isn't enough. Attendance at church functions is good, but how about the tithes and offerings? Do they add up to the rhythm of sacrificial giving? When the congregational potential is put alongside the actual cash, which stacks up higher?

The Blood Pressure

A third test for our church is its blood pressure. This is its enthusiasm. We can attend well and give well, but be satisfied with an abbreviated program of service. Does our congregation have the young and fearless spirit of Christ throbbing in its arteries? Are we going ahead with faith to build the kingdom of love and goodwill in our community?

High blood pressure may mean that discords and tensions are developing in the Body of Christ which can cause serious illness. Unresolved conflicts gossip, fault-finding and the lake can shoot the blood pressure to the danger level. Is our church red in the face at this test?

The Cardiograph

To make the examination complete, we must have a cardiograph. This careful analysis of the spiritual growth of our congregation is the most difficult of all measurements. Delicate comparisons beyond our limited power to detect must be brought in use. Only the Great Physician Himself can make this exacting examination. Our human faculties are baffled by the intangibles to be evaluated.

All of us should be concerned with the health of the Body of Christ in our locality. Granted that we cannot make the cardiogram, still we can take the pulse, use the stethescope, and determine the blood pressure.

If we should be tempted to blame the poor heart condition of the Body of Christ in our town on to various and sundry other persons, it is well to remember that each of us should first make a thorough analysis of the statistics of our own heart. Have we given full control of our lives to the indwelling Christ?

Refsell To Maple Hill

Early in October the Rev. Lloyd G. Refsell began supplying the pulpit at Maple Hill. He came to Topeka to take Chaplain's training under the Rev. Thomas Klink of Topeka State Hospital. He is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Fellowship. The Refsell's have four boys.

AT YOUR SERVICE

South Central Wichita Community Church

Despite the limited pastoral attention we have been able to give the new South Central Community Church now meeting in the Wilson School at Wichita, substantial interest has been shown by more than a dozen local families. The highest attendance to date was 66.

Kiowa Men's Club

The Kiowa Men's Club met on October 10 for their regular monthly dinner meeting. I was impressed by the fine spirit of fellowship and enjoyed the chance to present some of the goals of our conference to the men. They have voted to purchase and install a church sign for the front lawn.

E & R Delegate Interchange

In addition to attending the three Association meetings of our fellowship I was privileged to serve as a fraternal delegate to the Hudson and the Junction City fall synod meetings of the Kansas E & R Churches on October 11 and 12.

Outstanding denominational leaders were present and the sessions were conducted very much like our own fall association meetings.

Rev. Walter Vonderhoe of Cheney represented the E & R Church at Southern Association at Partridge on October 4.

Rev. G. A. Teske of Abilene attended the Eastern Association at Topeka on October 6.

Rev. William C. Bessmer of Great Bend was present at the Western Association meeting in Smith Center on October 9 and 10.

HOLIDAY HELPS

"The Story of Thanksgiving" - color filmstrip with script. Traditional and historical. Older Primary through adults.

"Thanksgiving With Jesus" - filmstrip with script. Shows how Jesus as a boy might have celebrated the harvest with his people.

"Why We Have Thanksgiving"- color filmstrip with script.

"Christmas Around the World"- color filmstrip with records (78 RPM). Shows Christmas customs in many lands. Based on poem, "Everywhere, Everywhere, Christmas Tonight." 20 minutes.

"Christmas Carols" - filmstrip only. Includes six well known carols.

"Christmas in Puerto Rico" - color filmstrip script. How Christmas is kept in this tropical land.

"The Christmas Story" - color filmstrip with script giving the traditional Christmas Story.

"Each With His Own Brush" - color filmstrip with records (78 RPM) showing the way artists in other countries have interpreted the birth and life of Jesus.

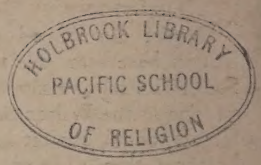
"Harvest From Holidays" - filmstrip with records. A family film showing one family's use of special holidays for the enrichment of family life.

"Martin the Shoemaker" - color filmstrip with separate script suitable to children or adults. Adapted from story, "Where Love Is, There God Is" by Tolstoi.

"They Built the Ships" - record only. A friendly minister at a housing project proves to a homesick little girl that it can be Christmas in California as well as in Kansas.

"The Three Camels" - slides with script for Primary or Junior age. A Christmas story of three toy camels and three friends, two from India and one from the United States.

The Charles Holbrook Library
Pacific School of Religion
1708 Scenic Ave.
Berkeley 9, Calif.



"When the Littlest Camel Knelt" filmstrip with record. A Christmas story appealing to all ages.

"The Serving Maid" - a book with a delightful Christmas story by Grace Noel Crowell. Copy for loan at Conference office.

"Memories"

When Madura Church was moved to town in 1882,
A parsonage was needed for the preacher's family, too.
In those "good old days" styles differed,
Even nails were not the same.
In the course of some repairs
On this preacher's home of ours,
These four-cornered, rusty nails
Were from the old house jarred.
How about a souvenir
Of that by-gone day?
And the quarter that you give
Will for some new nails pay.

The above poem, sent out with a square nail attached for a souvenir, brought in a sizeable sum for repairs on the Wakefield parsonage recently.

A New Grandchild

The Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Bartter announce the arrival of a grandson, Bradley Davis, born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bartter of McPherson on October 15, to be a playmate for Carol Louise now past two.

Nebraska Sup't. Improving

The Rev. Arthur W. Taylor, seriously injured in a car accident near Manhattan on Sept. 23rd, has returned to Nebraska after almost a month in the hospital at Manhattan. He is much improved.

Lawrence Plymouth

Dr. Noble Strong Elderkin, minister at Lawrence from 1910 to 1916, was guest at the 101st anniversary of the church on Oct. 19. The parish house recently destroyed by fire was built during his ministry.

Worship services were held in the sanctuary on October 30 after seven weeks at the Haskell auditorium.

An architect has been engaged and the campaign for funds will take place November 20.

"Doc" Dull's Son-in-law Reports

"Two little boys were talking one day and one was overheard to say: let's go out in a boat. Said the other, 'yeah, and let's go out real deep' - 'Sure', returned the first, 'let's go out all alone. Well, maybe we'd better take God along.' 'yeah,' said the other, 'and maybe Grandpa, too.' "